

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2-5 in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Please amend claims 1, 6 and 7 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A catalyst for exhaust gas purification, comprising:

a NO_x absorbent material which absorbs NO_x in an exhaust gas in an environment of excess oxygen whose exhaust gas oxygen concentration level is high, whereas, when the exhaust gas oxygen concentration level becomes lower in a given temperature range, said NO_x absorbent material releases said absorbed NO_x;

a precious material; and

~~an oxygen storage material~~ a Ce-Pr mixed oxide which releases a larger maximum amount of oxygen in said given temperature range ~~in comparison with other temperature ranges,~~

wherein said Ce-Pr mixed oxide is supported on a substrate and is present in amounts ranging from 15 to 300g per 1L of said substrate.

2-5 (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas purification catalyst of ~~any one of claims 1-4~~ claim 1,

wherein at least a part of said NO_x absorbent material is supported on said ~~oxygen storage material~~ Ce-Pr mixed oxide.

7. (Currently Amended) A catalyst for exhaust gas purification, comprising:

a NO_x absorbent material ~~placed in an exhaust gas alternating between a first period during which the exhaust gas oxygen concentration level becomes relatively high and a second period during which the exhaust gas oxygen concentration level becomes relatively low,~~ and formed of at least one of Ba, K, Sr, and MG; a precious metal; and a Ce-Pr mixed oxide,

wherein the catalyst being placed in an exhaust gas of which an oxygen concentration level becomes relatively high in a first period and becomes relatively low in a second period, the first period and the second period being alternately repeated, and Ce-Pr mixed oxide is supported on a substrate and is present in amounts ranging from 15 to 300g per 1L of said substrate.

8. (Withdrawn) A catalyst for exhaust gas purification disposed in an exhaust passage of an engine, comprising:

a NO_x absorbent material which absorbs, when the oxygen concentration level of an exhaust gas from said engine is high, NO_x, in said exhaust gas, whereas, when said oxygen concentration level becomes lower, said NO_x absorbent material releases said absorbed NO_x;

a precious metal; and

an oxygen storage material which enhances the ionization potential of said NO_x absorbent material.

9. (Withdrawn) The exhaust gas purification catalyst of claim 8, wherein at least a part of said NO_x absorbent material is supported on said oxygen storage material.

10. (Withdrawn) An exhaust gas purification system, comprising:

a catalyst for exhaust gas purification including a NO_x absorbent material which absorbs, when the oxygen concentration level of an exhaust gas is high, NO_x in said exhaust gas, whereas, when said oxygen concentration level becomes lower, said NO_x absorbent material releases said absorbed NO_x, absorbent material releases said absorbed NO_x as said oxygen concentration level becomes lower, and that said second period is shorter than said first period.